



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

West Hollywood, CA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of West Hollywood for a Brownfields Pilot. Through redevelopment designation and other initiatives, the City (population 36,859) has focused revitalization efforts on the 338-acre East Side area (population 10,548). Since the 1970s the City's East Side has become a home to Russian immigrants. During the 1980s, still more Russian immigrants moved into the area—mostly elderly persons with low to very low incomes and limited English language capabilities. More than 31% of the East Side households earn incomes below the poverty level and approximately 53% of the area's population is minority.

The East Side is home to several industrial sites that date back to the turn of the century. Some are still in operation, some have been converted to commercial uses, and others are abandoned. The City has begun to identify East Side area brownfields sites. One priority site is the 7-acre Gateway area that contains six contiguous properties. Industrial uses in this area have included automotive repair, metal plating, utilities, and manufacturing that may have resulted in contamination at certain sites. This suspected contamination has hindered the East Side's economic development and continues to pose possible public health risks.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



West Hollywood, California

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the 7-acre Gateway area located on the City's East Side.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(415) 744-2237

Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

With the help of the Pilot and other City initiatives, West Hollywood plans to encourage cleanup and redevelopment within the East Side area. The City has already undertaken several steps to improve the quality of life for the East Side's predominantly low- and moderate-income residents, including the designation of the East Side as a City Redevelopment Area, and preparation of a redevelopment plan. The Pilot will aid in the City's overall objective of stimulating economic development and protecting human health and the environment by conducting environmental assessments and community outreach in the East Side's Gateway area. The Pilot will also assist with a comprehensive inventory of all city brownfields.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Creating a comprehensive brownfields inventory for the City, and identifying brownfields sites with the greatest potential for redevelopment;
- Conducting environmental assessments on selected sites, and developing cleanup and redevelopment plans for those sites;
- Conducting community outreach activities; and
- Identifying alternative sources of funding and developing mechanisms to streamline the regulatory process to facilitate brownfields revitalization.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.